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PAGE 01 NEW DE 04772 100259Z

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EA-06 OES-03 ACDA-05 FEA-01 /081 W

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R 091445Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8007

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF FOREIGN POLICY ASPECTS OF EXTERNAL
MINISTRY AND DEFENSE MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORTS

SUMMARY; THE ANNUAL REPORTS ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE
RECOUNT THE GAINS AND SETBACKS IN US-INDIAN RELATIONS;
RECORD NO CHANGES IN FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE USSR NOR
COOL RELATIONS WITH THE PRC. INCREASED INDIAN DIPLOMATIC
ACTIVITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA IS CITED.
INDIA'S CONCERNS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND COMMITMENT TO USE
NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES ONLY ARE AFFIRMED.
END SUMMARY.

1. THE ANNUAL MEA REPORT ISSUED LAST WEEK GIVES LITTLE
NEW INSIGHT INTO INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY. THE CHAPTER DEVOTED
TO THE AMERICAS NOTES THAT "THE TREND TOWARDS A MATURE RE-
LATIONSHIP BETWEEN INDIA AND THE UNITED STATES WAS FURTHER
STRENGTHENED IN 1974." THE REPORT LISTS THE VARIOUS HIGH
LEVEL CONTACTS AND VISITS TO INDIA WHICH TOOK PLACE AND
STATES, "PRESIDENT FORD HAS ACCEPTED THE PRIME MINISTER'S
INVITATION TO VISIT INDIA." THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JOINT
COMMISSION AND MEEETINGS OF THE SUB-COMMISSION WERE DESCRIBED.
FULL COVERAGE WAS GIVEN TO THE SECRETARY'S VISIT AND THE DIS-
CUSSIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE AT THAT TIME NOTING PARTICULARLY
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US SUPPORT FOR THE SIMLA PROCESS, RECOGNITION OF INDIA'S

NOALIGNED POLICY, AND WELCOMING INDIA'S POLICY OF USING NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY ONLY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. THE REPORT CONTINUES; THE SECRETARY "SAID THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF EQUATING INDIAN AND PAKISTAN AND THE UNITED STATES DID NOT INTEND TO ENCOURAGE AN ARMS RACE IN THE SUB-CONTINENT... DURING THESE TALKS INDIA EMPHASIZED THAT ANY SUPPLY OF ARMS TO PAKISTAN, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, WOULD IMPEDE THE PROCESS OF NORMALISATION AND COME IN THE WAY OF DURABLE PEACE IN THE SUB-CONTINENT. THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON DIEGO GARCIA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE WERE ALSO CONVEYED."

2. A FINAL PAGE ADDENDUM, OBVIOUSLY WRITTEN TOO LATE TO INCLUDE IN THE BODY OF THE BOOK, REPORTED THAT THE HOPEFUL TRENDS IN US-INDIA RELATIONS WERE "CLOUDED BY THE AMERICAN DECISION TO REVERSE ITS TEN YEAR OLD ARMS POLICY TOWARD THE SUBCONTINENT." THE ADDENDUM DESCRIBES THE US DECISION AS A "RETROGRAD STEP WHICH WOULD NOT FURTHER THE CAUSE OF PEACE IN THE SUBCONTINENT." IT NOTES INDIA'S GRAVE CONCERN AND SERIOUS DISAPPOINTMENT ON THIS DEVELOPMENT, AND REPORTS SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION IN PARLIAMENT AND PRESS REFLECTED THE PROFOUND CONCERN AMONG ALL SECTIONS OF PUBLIC OPINION IN INDIA. CHAVAN'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE SECRETARY ON THIS SUBJECT WAS DESCRIBED, AND THE ADDENDUM CLOSED WITH THE REPORT THAT CHAVAN UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD NOT ATTEND THE MEETING OF JOINT COMMISSION IN WASHINGTON ON MARCH 13 AND 14.

3. ON CHINA THE REPORT NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH INDIA CONTINUED TO FOLLOW A POLICY SEEKING NORMALIZATION, CHINA'S ATTITUDE REMAINED "UNRESPONSIVE AND UNFRIENDLY."

4. THE SECTIONS ON WEST ASIA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA REFLECT THE STEPPED-UP LEVELS OF INDIAN DIPLOMACY AND ACTIVITY IN BOTH AREAS. A "SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING AND GOODWILL" IS NOTED AS "SPECIALLY" MARKING RELATIONS WITH MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE, THAILAND, INDONESIA AND THE PHILIPPINES, "CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE" IS ASCRIBED TO RELATIONS WITH IRAN, IRAQ AND THE UAE AND 8 ARAB STATES ARE MENTIONED IN THIS YEAR'S REPORT WHICH WERE TOTALLY IGNORED IN THE 1973-74 REPORT. THERE ARE NO NEW ELEMENTS IN THE SECTION ON INDO-CHINA.

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5. RELATIONS WITH THE USSR AND EASTERN EUROPE ARE DESCRIBED WARMLY AND THE SOVIETS GET FULL MARKS ON ALL POINTS RELATING TO INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY, IN EVENTS ON THE SUB-CONTINENT, AND ON NUCLEAR POLICY.

6. AN UPTURN IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS APPARENT WITH A FIFTY PERCENT INCREASE IN INDIAN EXPERTS SERVING ABROAD. OF THE

339 EXPERTS IN 24 COUNTRIES 101 SERVE IN AFGHANISTAN,
61 IN AFRICA, AND 47 IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

7 THE COMPANION REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, ISSUED
LAST WEEK, REPEATED SOME OF THE SAME ARGUMENTS OF THE MEA
DOCUMENT, NOTABLY THOSE PERTAINING TO THE SUPPLY OF ARMS
TO PAKISTAN. THE MOD REPORT APPLAUDED DETENTE AND THE
SALT TALKS, BUT NOTED THE DANGER TO INDIA CAUSED BY CON-
TINUING TENSIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE OPENING OF THE
SUEZ CANAL, THE REPORT SAID, WOULD PERMIT RAPID TRANSIT
OF THE SUPER POWER NAVIES FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN TO WEST ASIA.
THE ANTICIPATED DEVELOPMENT OF THE DIEGO GARCIA BASE
AND THE "MASSIVE" CENTO NAVAL EXERCISE WERE DESCRIBED AS CAUSES
THAT RIVALRIES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN WOULD HAVE TO BE ACCEPTED
AS FACTORS IN THE INDIAN STRATEGIC HORIZON. INDIA'S COMMIT-
MENT TO USE NUCLEAR ENERGY ONLY FOR PEACEFUL PRUPOSES WAS
AFFIRMED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, ANNUAL REPORTS, PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE04772
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750124-0426
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750467/aaaacjsd.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <24 JUL 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUMMARY FOR POLITICAL ASPECTS OF EXTERNAL MINISTRY AND DEFENSE MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORTS
TAGS: PFOR, IN, US, WESTINGHOUSE, (DROBOT, JAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006